



**Kenneth A. Gibson**

**MAYOR**

**NEWARK, NEW JERSEY**

**07102**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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GIBSON CHARGES CARRINO WITH ASSAULT AND MALICIOUS DAMAGE

Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson today (Thursday, March 25) filed charges of assault and malicious damage against City Councilman Anthony Carrino as the result of a melee Tuesday in the Mayor's Office.

The Mayor has also called on Essex County Prosecutor Joseph Lordi to investigate "this act of mob violence" and see if any other offenses were committed by Carrino, State Senator Anthony Imperiale, or others.

Carrino and Imperiale, leading a crowd of more than 75 persons, smashed their way into the Mayor's locked inner office at City Hall to protest the appointment of a new police captain for the North District.

Witnesses said Carrino kicked open the door, and the mob swarmed toward the Mayor and his bodyguard, Detective Will Darden, who drew his service revolver. Darden has filed assault and battery charges against the North Ward councilman.

A hearing on Gibson's charges has been scheduled for April 6 at 8:45 a.m. in Municipal Court. A judge has not yet been assigned to the case.

If convicted, Carrino could be fined up to \$500 and jailed up to six months on the assault charge, and fined \$1,000 and jailed for three years on the malicious destruction count. The latter offense is indictable by a grand jury.

In his letter to Lordi, the Mayor asked the prosecutor to "investigate this incident for other violations of the law, so that the leaders and participants in this act of mob violence do not go unpunished."

Gibson gave this account of the incident to Lordi:

"On March 23, 1976, a serious disturbance occurred at the Office of Mayor of the City of Newark. A large unruly group of people were led into my office by two public officials, New Jersey State Sen. Anthony Imperiale and Newark City Councilman Anthony Carrino. The personnel in my office were threatened, cursed and abused. My office door was broken into, a police officer in my office was assaulted, and a desk set smashed on my desk.

"This group, which can only be described as a mob, continued to threaten, abuse and curse myself and other city personnel. This mob was being actively led and encouraged by the two public officials mentioned above. Reference was made by one official to the 1967 disturbance by indicating that a similar holocaust could be visited upon our city."

In his formal charge, Gibson accused Carrino of assaulting him "by attempting or offering with unlawful force or violence to do bodily harm or physical injury to Kenneth Gibson."

The other charge says the councilman did "unlawfully and maliciously destroy, damage, injure and spoil the property of Kenneth Gibson, to wit: a desk pen set, and property of City of Newark, to wit: door, door frame including electric wiring system, by breaking into the door and smashing the pen set."

After a score of policemen rushed to the Mayor's office and restored order, Gibson went with the crowd to the City Council chamber. There Carrino, himself a policeman, and Imperiale denounced Gibson, and demanded the appointment of Capt. Stephen G. Patella to command the North District. Gibson has upheld the action of Police Director Hubert Williams in naming Capt. Edward Cullen to the post. Patella and Cullen are both White.

Carrino also led a demonstration outside the police director's home in the North Ward on Monday night.